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October 23, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PARACHUTERS TO PERFORM AT HOMECOMING

CHARLESTON -- Four special guests are planning to drop-in on fans attending Eastern Illinois University's Homecoming game on Saturday, Oct. 28.

The four-some won't be arriving by car or plane, but by parachute.

They are members of the U.S. Army "Silver Wings" Command Exhibition Parachute Team from Fort Benning, Georgia.

The paratroopers will descend 10,000 feet from a Blackhawk helicopter from the Illinois National Guard, landing on the game field just prior to the start of the 2 p.m. Homecoming game against the Illinois State Redbirds.

Their arrival has been carefully orchestrated to immediately follow the singing of the National Anthem, said Capt. Albert Cruz from Eastern's ROTC program, host to the "Silver Wings."

Their demonstration of state-of-the-art precision free fall techniques will include smoke effects and a patriotic display of the American and EIU flags. One of the paratroopers will deliver the game ball to the field and another, the coin for the

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SILVER WINGS

game toss.

"We are anticipating a spectacular show. The 'Silver Wings' have a long and colorful history, dating back to 1965. They have performed in demonstrations and competitions throughout the country. To have them come to Eastern, particularly for Homecoming, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Cruz said.

Tickets for the Homecoming game against Illinois State can be purchased from the Lantz Gymnasium Ticket Office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday or on game day at the O'Brien Stadium Ticket Office beginning at 12:30 p.m.

To prepare for Saturday's jump, the parachute team has scheduled demonstrations for 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Thursday at O'Brien Stadium.

The public is invited to both demonstrations. Admission is free.

Thursday morning's exhibition includes a "Stay Drug-Free" program for students from the Charleston elementary schools and the Mattoon High School JROTC program. Cadets in Eastern's ROTC Panther Battalion will attend the afternoon demonstration.

The "Silver Wings" will do a repeat performance for Charleston High School students at 10 a.m. Friday at the CHS baseball field.